



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Employment and Social Governance  
Thematic Analysis

## *Leaving no one behind and striving for more: Fairness and solidarity in the EU social market economy*

Employment and Social Developments in Europe 2020  
**Online Conference, 6 October 2020, 09:30-13:00**

### **Format**

Online conference including a short presentations by the Commission of the main findings of the [ESDE 2020 report](#) and panel discussions on their impact and relevance in the context of the Covid-19 crisis and in view of the Action Plan for the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights. The event follows a first discussion at an online seminar on 15 September 2020, back-to-back to the [German Presidency conference on “Social Europe. Stronger Together”](#).

**Participants:** Representatives from Member States, social partners, EU and international organisations and civil society, as well as academics and researchers.

**Moderation:** Ms Marlène de Wouters, independent moderator, TV host and journalist

### **Draft agenda and panellists**

*09:15 – 09:30 Connection to the streaming and welcoming of participants*

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#### **09:30 – 10:45 Welcome and opening session**

Presentations: **Welcome remarks**

- **Marlène de Wouters**, moderator

**Welcome & opening speeches: *Fairness and solidarity in times of Covid***

- **Nicolas Schmit**, European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights
- **Vilija Blinkevičiūtė**, MEP, Vice Chair of the Employment Committee (tbc)
- **Rolf Schmachtenberg**, State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Employment and Social Affairs, Germany, Presidency of the Council

**Presentation of ESDE 2020 – main findings**

- **Barbara Kauffmann**, Director for Employment and Social Governance, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

Panel  
discussion

- **Ulrike Geith**, Head of Unit for Employment and Social Issues, Permanent Representation of Germany to the EU, Presidency of the Council (tbc)
- **Maria João Rodrigues**, President of the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS)
- **Andrea Brandolini**, Deputy Director General for Economics, Statistics and Research, Banca d'Italia
- **Esther Lynch**, Deputy Secretary General, ETUC
- **Maxime Cerutti**, Director Social Affairs, Business Europe

10:45 – 11:00 Online coffee break

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## 11:00 – 12:00 Parallel thematic sessions

### Session 1 “Fairness: perceptions, facts and drivers”

*What are the main perceptions and views of fairness and equal opportunity in the EU? How to promote and reconcile different concepts of fairness: rewarding merit, providing for basic needs and promoting equality of opportunity and outcomes? How to consider basic needs and poverty in a European context, with large differences in national living standards? Which role for minimum wages and minimum incomes in promoting fairness?*

Introduction: **ESDE 2020 on fairness** – main findings and SLIDO polls

- Panel discussion:
- **Rait Kuuse**, Chair of the Social Protection Committee, and Deputy Secretary General on Social Policy, Ministry of Social Affairs, Estonia
  - **Anke Hassel**, Professor, Hertie School of Governance Berlin
  - **Chiara Saraceno**, Professor Università di Torino, Honorary Fellow Collegio Carlo Alberto
  - **Daniel Vaughan-Whitehead**, Senior Economist, ILO

### Session 2 “Inclusive growth and solidarity in times of crisis”

*How to make sure that lower income-groups can take their share in economic growth? How to make sure that everyone can contribute to economic growth? What social investment is needed in times of structural change towards a more digitalised and a greener economy and society? What social investment is needed when adverse economic shocks, such as the Covid-19 pandemic, hit the economy? What instruments are available to alleviate the impact of such a shock on the labour market?*

Introduction: **ESDE 2020 on inclusive growth and solidarity** – main findings and SLIDO polls

- Panel discussion:
- **Ilze Zvidrina**, Chair of the Employment Committee, and Director Labour Market Policy Department, Ministry of Welfare, Latvia
  - **Stefan Marx**, Head of Unit, Labour Market Policy department, German Labour and Social Affairs Ministry (BMAS)
  - **Brian Nolan**, Director of Employment, Equity and Growth Programme; Professor, Nuffield College, Oxford University
  - **Maria Jepsen**, Deputy Director, Eurofound

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## 12:00 – 13:00 Closing session: 10 years ESDE – achievements, way forward

Introduction: **Visual harvest - Introduction and summary of main discussion points**

Discussion: **ESDE anecdotes, experiences and expectations**

- László Andor, former Commissioner, Secretary-General FEPS
- Odile Quintin, former Director-General, Professor ESCP Europe
- Georg Fischer, former Director DG EMPL, Senior Research Associate, Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (WIIW)
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### Closing remarks

- Joost Korte, Director-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL), European Commission

13:00 – 13:30 Musical apéro with ESDE anniversary cake & piñata